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THE MORNING NEWS

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Over 200 Occupy protesters arrested in Oakland

OAKLAND (AFP)--Police fired tear gas and arrested more than 200 people and four people were injured as anti-Wall Street protesters tried but failed to take over downtown buildings, including City Hall, in Oakland, California.

Protesters from Occupy Oakland -- the local offshoot of Occupy Wall Street -- first targeted the Henry Kaiser Convention Center on Saturday, before proceeding to a YMCA and then City Hall, police officials said.

A group of protesters burnt the American flag in front of City Hall before breaking into the historic building and damaging exhibit inside, officials said.

"There is no excuse for the behavior we experienced this

evening," said Council President Larry Reid when responding to an inquiry about damage to City Hall.

Occupy Oakland, ousted from its protest camp in Frank Ogawa Plaza on October 25 amid clashes with police, had earlier announced a weekend "rise up festival" to be held in an unspecified empty building.

The demonstration, which started out peacefully, brought together an estimated 1,000 people, who marched toward the convention center that includes a 5,500-seat arena, theater and event spaces.

Once there, several protesters tried to tear down a fence and occupy the building, according to media reports.

Exina Kock is Aruba's 18th Señora Carnival!

Friday evening, January 27, Aruba's Minister of Social & Economic Affairs and Culture placed the crown on the head of Exina Kock, who will now reign during the remaining events of Carnival 58 as the 18th Señora Carnival.

This was the first of 3 Queen elections, the next to be elected are the Children's and Youth Queens, and finally, in the last weeks of revelry, the Grand Carnival Queen.

These spirited "beauty" pageants also award their winners for Best Speech, Best Show and Best Costume, with originality and authentic carnival spirit deciding factors.

Exina, representing Aruba HOG - the Harley Davidson Club, was decidedly elegant and will be a most appropriate



New queen crowned by Minister Hooyboer Winklaar

Señora Carnival as she presented a gracious and delighted demeanor when being singled out by this year's Prince and Pancho.

Indira Oliviera from Royal Carnival Group was named 1st Runner Up and also won for Best Costume. Elizette Croes from TOB Group won for Best Show and Elizette Croes representing Aruba Trading Company won for Best Speech.

Retiring Señora Carnival

#17, Angelique Tosma, put on an amazing show with Pachanga Dance Troupe for a memorable swan song before abdicating and turning over her crown. She advised all the mature ladies in Aruba to "take a chance; I never thought I would win, and here I am. If anything you will certainly have a great time during the competition!"

(See more photos on pg 12)

By Rosalie Klein

Romney momentum builds in Florida, Gingrich defiant



LUTZ (AFP) - Mitt Romney stormed towards a likely Tuesday victory in Florida that would make him strong favorite for the Republican presidential nomination, but rival Newt Gingrich vowed a long-haul battle.

New polls Sunday showed Romney opening up a decisive double-digit lead in Florida after his team went on the offensive, unleashing blistering campaign ads across the southeastern state that painted Gingrich as a failed House speaker whose ethics violations make him an untrustworthy candidate.

Continue on pg 6

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Occidental Grand Resort welcomes Woodland Engine Company #4 for the first centennial celebration

We often admire and are in awe of those brave individuals who choose to earn their living by risking their lives regularly to save others; professional firemen and first responders. So it was with particular admiration that staff of the Occidental Grand Aruba Resort welcomed a contingent from the Woodland Engine Company #4 of Rockville Center, Long Island, as each of them is a VOLUNTEER fireman, frequently putting themselves at risk only in service of their community and for no remuneration whatsoever.

The Woodland Engine Company #4 arrived on Aruba last Friday, January 27 to celebrate the centennial of the founding of this volunteer force, one of 7 companies that service the 30,000 citizens of Rockville Center.

"Many of us are accountants, policemen, or professional firefighters in other departments, such as John Atwell, a retired captain from the NYC Fire Department, and one of the organizers of this trip along with Peter Klugewicz," explained John Miranda, a former fire chief of company 4. During his tenure as Chief, he had the proud duty of swearing in his oldest son as a volunteer fire-



Visiting Firemen of the Woodland Engine Company

fighter, and his younger son is now a 2nd Lieutenant with the company; it is not unusual to find 3 generations of one family as volunteers with this company.

Around 33 of their staff were able to join in the celebration on Aruba marking 100 years; many could not, as their regular jobs would not allow it and someone had to

stay behind to "mind the store."

"All of Long Island is protected by volunteer companies," explained John Atwell. "We are there to protect and serve our community and save the taxpayers millions of dollars, as well as be sure we have the backs of our 'brothers in arms.'" They explained that it takes two years of training to first qualify as an entry-level firefighter, but the training never stops as they acquire skills as EMT's, AMT's, and first-responders. "Not all of the more than 2900 calls a year we respond to are life or death situations," they explain, "but we often find they are life-changing, as we pry some teenager out of a car, or perform some other service where they come to appreciate what we do."

After enjoying a sumptuous buffet on the beach from

the Occidental Culinary Department, and just prior to enjoying a carnival show from the resort's Fun Club Dancers, the two Johns were joined by all the vacationing

firefighters and their families in a rousing toast to 100 years of the Woodland Engine Company #4 - may they enjoy another 100 more of safe, successful rescues.

By Rosalie Klein



Former Chiefs and organizers of the celebration

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Dr. Jaime Falconi, an Aruban, named new medical Director of Hospital

After a rather long recruitment process, the Stichting Ziekenverpleging, the foundation which manages the Dr. Horacio E. Oduber Hospital here, recently signed a working agreement with Dr. Jaime Falconi to be the Hospital's new Medical Director and member of the Board of Directors. Falconi will be one of the three directors to lead Aruba's hospital. The future leadership structure for the hospital calls for three Directors, a Medical Director in charge of patient care, a Business Management Director, and a general Director.

The 5-year contract with Dr. Arnoud Boesten, the current President of the Board of Directors and General Director

of the Hospital will terminate on January 31st 2012. The foundation expressed words of appreciation for Boesten's period of service to the hospital.

Last September 2011, the process of recruiting two directors began with appointing a commission of 5 persons. Advertisements were placed in local newspapers as well as in Holland and in the Dutch Caribbean press. The primary focus has always been on finding Arubans, either locally or abroad who want to return to Aruba to work and live.

They reported having received 6 applicants for the position of General Director, and 6 candidates for Medical Director of which a few solicited

for both functions. After reviewing their cv's and meeting with them, two candidates were chosen for the position of Medical Director. Ultimately the Supervisory Board chose Jaime Falconi for the position of Medical Director. No candidate to date has been found for the position of General Director.

The 60 year old Dr. Jaime Rolando Falconi is a Neurologist who studied at the Academisch Ziekenhuis in Groningen, the Netherlands. Since 1986 he has been practicing medicine on Aruba, which means that he, as of 2011, has 25 years of experience as a medical specialist on Aruba. Dr. Falconi has been member of the Board of the "Artsen

Vereniging Aruba," which group later was renamed HAVA and VMSA. He was also on the Board of VMSA for a few years. Falconi is also co founder of the PAAZ Department of the Hospital and for a few years served as the neurology doctor of that department. Falconi was also instrumental in the creation of the Neurological Department of the Hospital. He was the first specialist, along with Doctors Meelis and Tonk, to create a "medische maatschap" on our island. Falconi is also the medical advisor to various organizations, such as Fundacion CVA Aruba, Cas-Marie and the Epileptic Organization of Aruba.

Dr. Jaime Falconi has a

rich history of knowledge and experience in his medical work and in his social role in our community. He knows the hospital staff and personnel well and it is believed he will make a positive contribution to the care of our patients.

Aruba's Hospital has been existing now for 34 years and is named after Aruba's first Aruban born doctor, Dr. Horacio E. Oduber. Annually the Hospital cares for about 15,500 day patients. A team of 875 employees are employed in the service of the Hospital to offer expert care to patients.

The Supervisory Board of the Hospital welcomes Dr. Jaime Falconi as the new Medical Director and wishes him much success in his new function.

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"Inspired by Nature" photo expo opens at Westin Art Gallery



Photographers Julio Beaujon and Jimmy Meijer with their work



On Friday, January 27th, a photo exposition of images by two Arikok National Park



employees, Ranger Julio Beaujon and P/R Manager Jimmy Meijer, opened at the



Westin Art Gallery in the Palm Beach Resort. Not only employees dedicated to pre-



serving Aruba's natural environment, Julio and Jimmy share a passion for the landscapes, flora and fauna under the park's protection, and hope through this exposition to inspire others to appreciate and preserve Aruba's ecology.

The stunning images range from unique landscapes taken from a helicopter, providing perspectives of the park that will be new to even veteran visitors of its environs to macro shots of flora and fauna which also reveal remarkable details of what is very often taken for granted as a weed or pest; the innate beauties of the island's indigenous life forms are put on display in eye-opening fashion.

"What makes us special?" is the question asked by Arikok Park employees, and their answer is "our bio-diversity," particularly when it is captured from the unique perspective of talented photographers with passion for their subjects.

The 30 works on sale at the gallery were beautifully printed and mounted by Fernando Vermeer of Checkpoint Color with careful attention to the quality and drama of presentation. They are uniformly priced at \$265, with the photographers donating their entire portion of the sales to the Arikok National Park.

The current exposition will be on display for 2 months, until March; the gallery is open 24/7, with a representative present to advise and handle sales every Wednesday and Friday afternoon. A virtual tour of the gallery and news of present and past exhibits and the artists they represent can be found online at: <http://www.aruba-artgallery.com/index.html>.

By Rosalie Klein

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At El Gaucho Argentine Grill Mark Kilbride, Kendall-Jackson Winery and the Arion Wine Company, celebrate Dia di Betico



A select number of food & beverage professionals were invited to sample some of the famous winery's labels, and pair the delectable wine with the award winning dishes at El Gaucho Argentine Grill.

Kilbride offered tastings of the Matanzas Creek Sauvignon Blanc from Bennett Valley Sonoma County California where the Matanzas

Creek Winery is located on the site of a former dairy farm. The winery's first vintage picked up a native malolactic yeast strain from the former dairy barn, and that particular strain is now called MCW, and is used by wineries around the globe. Kilbride also introduced Byron Pinot Noir from Santa Maria Valley, Santa Barbara County

California, where Byron specializes in producing small-lot artisan Pinot Noirs.

As an added interaction Kilbride decanted the Freemark Abbey Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley, a wine which earned 92 Points when rated by Wine & Spirits. The Freemark Abbey winery, was founded in 1886 by Josephine MarlinTychson who was the first woman the build and operate a winery in California.

The older wine, developed and came to life when decanted, in the conversation pieces decanter, as seen in our images!

El Gaucho Argentine Grill continues to nurture the culture of food and wine pairing and frequently hosts international wine artists, reports Joost Rôben of the Arion Wine Company.

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Group honoring at the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort



Recently a very nice group of loyal and friendly Aruba visitors, all members of the Divi Phoenix were honored by the Aruba Tourism Authority. The honorees were Mr. John and Barbara Mason, Mr. Terry and Stephanie Collins and their daughter Kate Collins and Mr. Stephen Freiband.

They all received the Distinguished Visitor Certificate. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10 to 19 consecutive years. They all have one thing in common they love Aruba very much

for the weather, the people who live and work here, the beaches and a great variation of restaurants.

The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Avril from the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort.

London celebrates Year of the Dragon

LONDON (AFP) Thousands of people packed into London's Trafalgar Square on Sunday to celebrate Chinese New Year, with pyrotechnics and dancers in dragon costumes entertaining the crowds.

London Mayor Boris Johnson said the big turnout "shows the way the world economy is going", as people braced the chilly weather to see performers parade through the city and sample Chinese food.

Trafalgar Square is around



the corner from London's Chinatown district.

The festivities to welcome in the Year of the Dragon, which officially started on January 23.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Second front for Afghan peace talks in Saudi: officials

(CAIRO (AFP)-- Afghanistan and Pakistan plan to open a second front in negotiations with the Taliban in Saudi Arabia as US-brokered talks get under way in Qatar, officials said Sunday.

The Taliban, ousted from power by a US-led invasion in the wake of the 9/11 attacks, announced earlier this month that they planned to set up a political office in Qatar ahead of talks with Washington.

And Taliban negotiators have begun holding preliminary talks with US officials in the Gulf state on plans for negotiations aimed at ending the decade-long Afghan war, a former Taliban official said Sunday.

But Afghan and Taliban

officials indicated in response to a BBC report about plans for talks in Saudi Arabia that both Kabul and Islamabad -- usually at loggerheads on the issue -- were looking for their own talks with the Taliban.

Asked for his response to the BBC report, Afghan foreign ministry spokesman Janan Mosazai said: "Of course we support any steps towards the Afghan peace process." He refused to comment further.

But a senior Afghan government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP the BBC report was accurate, saying: "We will always pursue all roads towards peace in Afghanistan, including contacts with the Taliban that are not limited to the Qatar office."

Wrecked Italian liner to be moved by year's end: official



ROME (AFP) - The wreck of Italian cruise liner Costa Concordia will be moved from Giglio Island by the end of the year, the top rescue official said Sunday. The 114,500-tonne ship's owner Costa Crociere is readying a call for tenders. "These two stages should take about two months," Gabrielli told the media, after which, "taking into account the constraints that weather and sea conditions may impose, it will take seven to 10 months to remove the wreck," he said.

'The Grey' leads N. American box office pack

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - "The Grey," a Liam Neeson drama about plane crash survivors fending off hungry wolves, took in \$20 million on its opening weekend to lead the pack at the North American box office, industry data showed Sunday.

The adventure thriller bumped "Underworld 4: Awakening," the latest take in the series about the exploits of a woman vampire warrior, into second spot. The 3D flick starring Kate Beckinsale pulled in \$12 million, industry tracker Exhibitor Relations said.

Romeny momentum builds in Florida, Gingrich defiant

Continued from pg 1

(AFP) Romney, a former Massachusetts governor and millionaire venture capitalist who is considered the party establishment's favored candidate, was routing Gingrich by 15 points in Florida, 42 percent to 27 percent, according to an NBC/Marist poll.

A new Miami Herald poll showed Romney ahead by 11 points.

"What does Gingrich need to do? I would say Romney would need to implode," Brad Coker, the pollster who conducted the Herald survey of 800 registered Florida voters, said in the newspaper.

Both surveys showed Christian conservative former senator Rick Santorum a distant third and congressman Ron Paul fourth.

Despite the polls, Gingrich said he expected a close race in Florida, which will be a key battleground in the November general election, pitting President Barack Obama, a Democrat, against the eventual Republican nominee.

After attending church services in this community

north of Tampa, a fiery Gingrich insisted "the election will be substantially closer than the two polls" suggest.

With time running out for Gingrich to claw back some lost ground in Florida, he turned to the national nomination fight, insisting support for his campaign was building and that there was "no evidence Romney (is) coming close to getting a majority."

"Romney has got a very big challenge in trying to get a majority at the convention" in August, he said.

"We will go all the way to the convention, and I believe the Republican Party will not nominate a pro-abortion, pro-gun control, pro-tax increase moderate from Massachusetts."

Gingrich shocked the party when he thumped Romney in South Carolina earlier this month, and he enjoyed a bump in support before quickly sinking well below a resurgent Romney in Florida.

Gingrich's campaign got a weekend boost when he received an endorsement from former rival Herman Cain,

and tried to rally support by showcasing his conservative credentials, arguing that only a true conservative like himself has a chance to beat Obama.

On Sunday Gingrich insisted the only reason he trailed the more moderate Romney was because of his main rival's "relentlessly negative campaign" -- and because Santorum, by staying in the race, was splitting the conservative vote.

"The fact is, when you combine the Santorum vote and the Gingrich vote... the conservative combined would clearly beat Romney," he told ABC talkshow "This Week."

Seizing on his rival's precarious position, Romney's ad uses television news footage from 1997 when Gingrich became the first speaker ever reprimanded by the House of Representatives.

Gingrich was accused of dozens of violations, including a claim of tax-exempt status for his college course.

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International News

China should punish Philippines over US offer: report



(AFP) - China should impose "sanctions" against the Philippines after it offered to allow more US troops on its soil, state media said Sunday, amid growing tensions over disputed waters in the South China Sea.

Manila said it planned to hold more joint exercises and to let more US troops rotate through the Southeast Asian country -- an offer welcomed by the United States as it

seeks to expand its military power in Asia.

China has not yet officially responded to the announcement, which was made during the country's week-long holiday for the Lunar New Year. The foreign ministry on Sunday did not immediately respond to AFP requests for comment.

But an editorial in the Global Times, known for its nationalistic stance, said Beijing "must respond" to the move by using its "leverage to cut economic activities" between the Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries.

China also should consider "cooling down" business links with its smaller neighbour, ac-

cording to the editorial published in the Chinese and English versions of the newspaper.

"It should show China's neighbouring areas that balancing China by siding with the US is not a good choice," it said.

"Well-measured sanctions against the Philippines will make it ponder the choice of losing a friend such as China and being a vain partner with the US."

China and the Philippines, along with Vietnam, have rival claims to parts of the South China Sea, home to some of the world's most important shipping lanes and believed to hold vast deposits of fossil fuels.

Taiwan, Brunei and Malaysia also have claims in the South China Sea.

Manila and Hanoi complained repeatedly last year of what they said were increasingly aggressive acts by China in the decades-long rift.

The alleged acts, which included a Chinese naval ship reportedly firing warning shots at Filipino fishermen, fuelled fears among some nations in the region about China as its military and political strength grows.

The US has been looking to increase its military presence across the Asia Pacific in a strategic shift that has angered China.

US President Barack Obama said in November the United States would deploy up to 2,500 Marines to northern Australia. The following month a US admiral wrote that the US expected to station several combat ships in Singapore.

Africa leaders must respect gay rights: UN's Ban

ADDIS ABABA (AFP) - UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, in an unusually outspoken declaration Sunday, told African leaders they must respect gay rights, an issue that is controversial in many African states.

"One form of discrimination ignored or even sanctioned by many states for too long has been discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity," Ban said at an African Union summit in the Ethiopian capital.

Homosexuality is outlawed in most African countries and discrimination against gays and lesbians is rife on the continent, with South Africa being the only country that recognises gay rights and same-sex marriage, at least on paper.

However, previous external criticism of restrictions imposed on homosexuals has attracted angry responses from African leaders, who claim it is alien to their culture.

Outgoing African Union chairman Tedoro Obiang Nguema, speaking before Ban's remarks were delivered, complained about the external criticism the continent re-

ceives.

"Africa should not be questioned with regards to democracy, human rights, governance and transparency in public administration," he told the summit.

After Commonwealth leaders refused to adopt reforms to abolish homophobic laws in 41 member nations, British Prime Minister David Cameron said last year he would consider withholding aid from countries that do not recognise gay rights.

Gay rights in Africa, most notably in Uganda, made the news on several occasions last year.

Homosexuality is already illegal in Uganda, but a controversial bill that calls for the death penalty for certain homosexual acts was re-introduced in the Ugandan parliament late last year.

The proposed legislation envisages stiffer punishments - including the death penalty - for anyone caught engaging in homosexual acts for the second time as well as for gay sex where one partner is a minor or has HIV.

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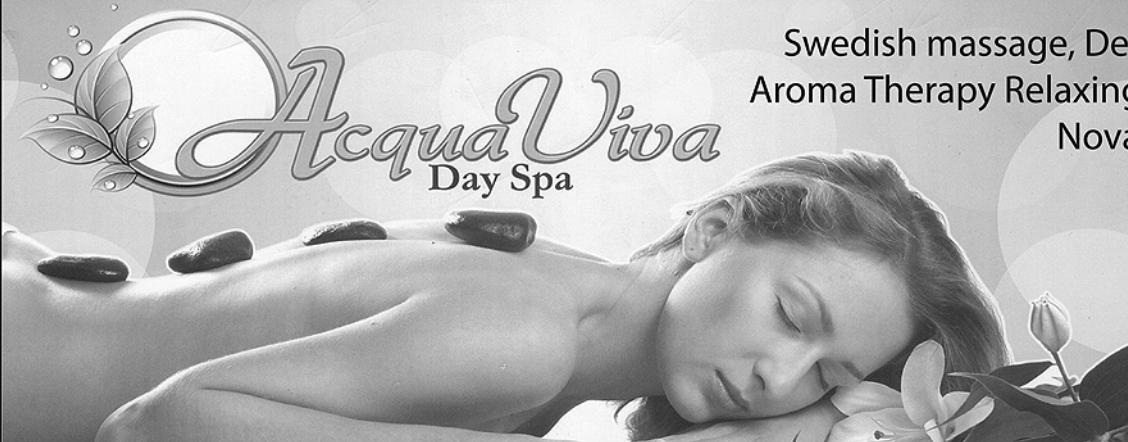
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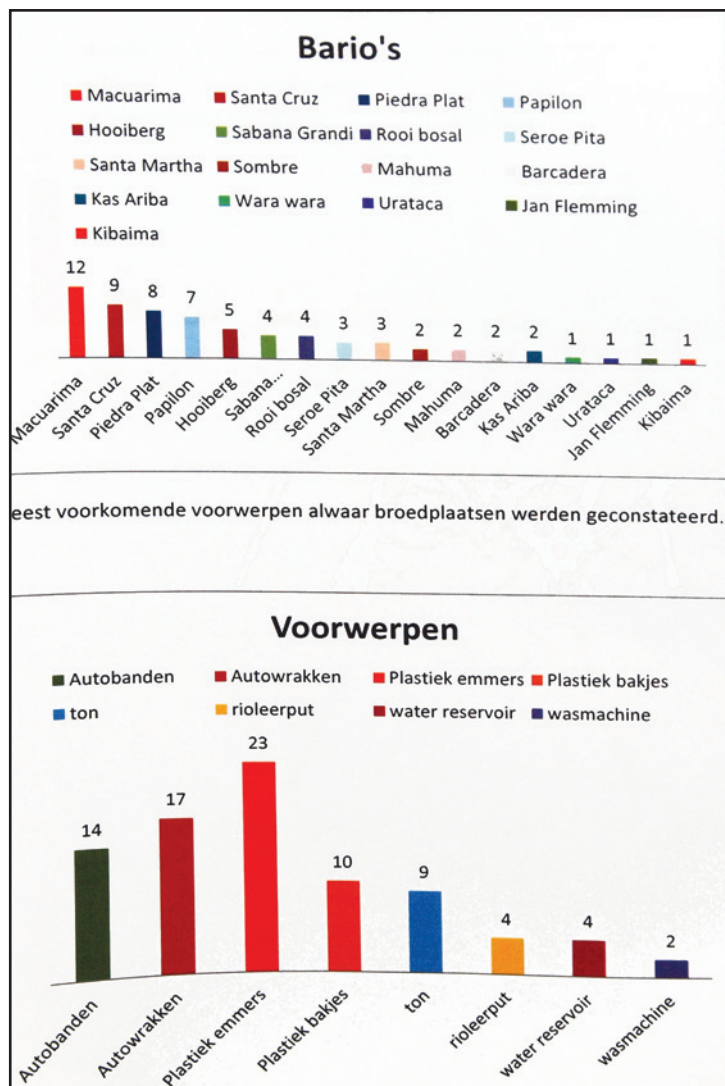


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SWIPE Team reports results on Santa Cruz Dengue control



Areas in Santa Cruz with most infractions and of what type

The team members of the SWIPE initiative, which is a

pro-active action to combat Dengue on Aruba, reported the results of the sweep through Santa Cruz district of Aruba during a press conference on Friday afternoon, January 27, at the Barcadera headquarters of the Department of Health.

This cooperative effort of the GKMB, the department for mosquito control, and DESPA, Department of Health, is also supported by a special team from the Aruba Police Force, which are following up on recommendations and distributing stiff fines for continued inaction by offenders.

Dengue fever is spread by

Aedes aegypti, the same mosquito that carries yellow fever. There are 4 strains of dengue fever on Aruba, of increasing severity. The greatest danger to those infected is if they carry two strains within their system, as this can result in dengue hemorrhagic fever or dengue shock syndrome, both of which can easily be life-threatening.

Breeding areas for the mosquito require usually clean, stagnant water, such as flower vases, uncovered barrels, buckets, and discarded tires, to name a few. House-by-house inspection of the Santa Cruz area revealed over 1400 breeding areas for the *Aedes aegypti* in the above mentioned receptacles, as well as defunct washing machines, abandoned cars, improperly sealed cisterns, and accumulated refuse where rainwater could collect.

SWIPE inspectors informed the community and individual homeowners of the problem and returned to

inspect again after a few weeks; those that did not comply by removing the threats received citations and were fined. Fines for non-compliance can range from 50 Aruban florins to 500 florins, depending on the degree of severity, and 80 fines were levied in the Santa Cruz district during the follow-up inspection, some for 500 florins.

SWIPE inspectors have the authority to give citations and levy fines; in the case of continued non-compliance the police will then step in, and perpetrators can face prosecution if offensive objects and breeding grounds are not cleared away.

Rudolph Werleman and Wilfredo Kelly head the SWIPE inspection team, and report that generally the community is quite cooperative when informed of a mosquito breeding ground



Dengue mosquito

on their premises. The SWIPE team is about to inspect the Noord district and all the barrios contained therein. Homeowners and businesses are advised to evaluate their premises for possible breeding grounds and properly dispose of waste; inform Serlimar of abandoned cars and major appliances in their neighborhoods, so they can also be removed.

by Rosalie Klein



Combat Dengue

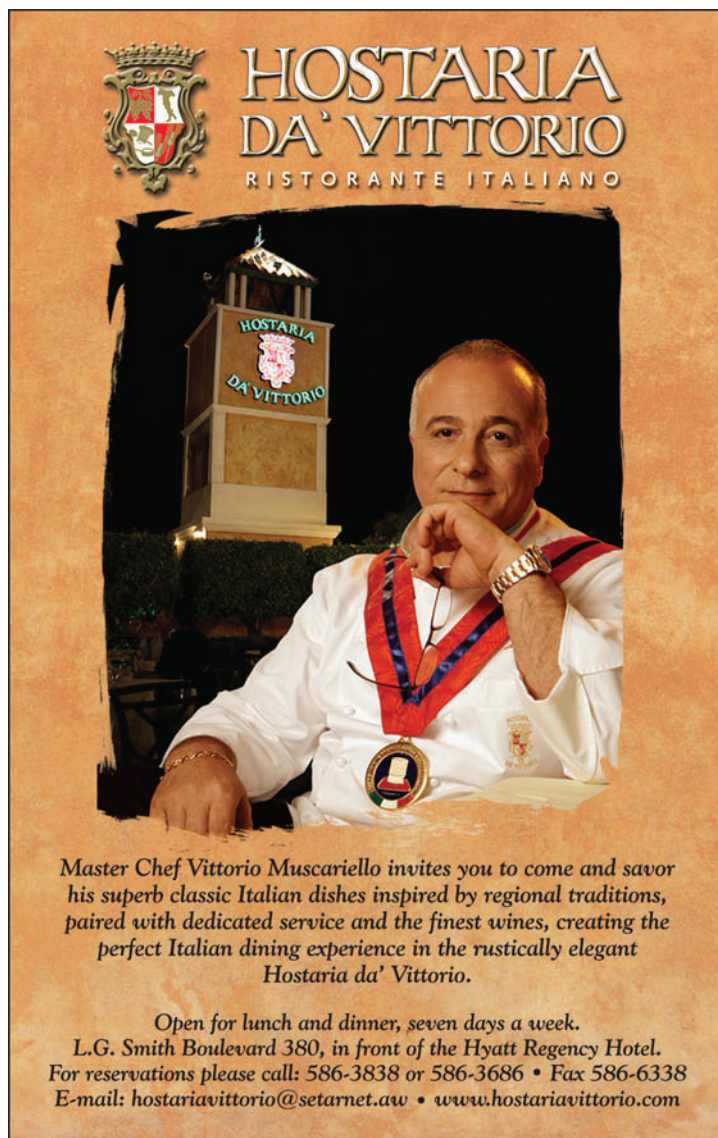
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Anonymous attack Mexico websites to protest copyright law



Interior Secretary Alejandro Poire (pictured) told a news conference that the ministry's site had been blocked

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - The shadowy online hackers group Anonymous blocked access to the websites of the Mexican Senate and the Interior Ministry to protest a proposed law to fine people who violate copyright online.

The proposal, from conservative senator Federico Doring, is widely seen as the Mexican version of SOPA -- the US Senate and the Stop Online Piracy Act that Wikipedia and other Web giants have denounced as a threat to Internet freedom.

Anonymous announced the attacks on its Spanish Twitter

account on week-end.

Interior Secretary Alejandro Poire later told a news conference that the ministry's site had been blocked for around five minutes in late morning.

The site had not been compromised and officials were investigating, Poire said.

Doring said on his Twitter

account that Anonymous had a right to show it was against his proposal but did not have a right to attack web pages.

He insisted that the proposal "does not contemplate any criminal punishment" and would not sanction users of social networks because they do not make profits.

Sci-Tech

Climate-driven heat peaks may shrink wheat crops



(AFP) - More intense heat waves due to global warming could diminish wheat crop yields around the world through premature ageing, according to a study published Sunday in Nature Climate Change.

Current projections based on computer models underestimate the extent to which hotter weather in the future will accelerate this process, the researchers warned.

Wheat is harvested in temperate zones on more than 220 million hectares (545 million acres), making it the most

widely grown crop on Earth.

In some nations, the grain accounts for up to 50 percent of calorie intake and 20 percent of protein nutrition, according to the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), near Mexico City.

In 2010, drought and wildfires in wheat-exporting Russia pushed world prices of the grain to two-year highs, underscoring the vulnerability of global supplies to weather- and climate-related disruptions.

Greenhouse experiments have shown that unseasonably warm temperatures -- especially at the end of the growing season -- can cause senescence, the scientific term for accelerated ageing.

Excess heat beyond the plant's tolerance zone damages photosynthetic cells.

Fluctuations in wheat yields in India have also been attributed by farmers to temperature, most recently a heat wave in 2010 blamed for stunting plant productivity.

To further test these experiments and first-hand observations, a trio of researchers led by David Lobell of Stanford University sifted through nine years of satellite data for the Indo-Ganges Plains in northern India and then used statistical methods to isolate the effects of extreme heat on wheat.

They found that a 2.0 Celsius increase above long-term averages shortened the growing season by a critical nine days, reducing total yield by up to 20 percent.

The world's nations, under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), have said that Earth's average temperature should not exceed the preindustrial benchmark by more than 2.0 C if dangerous warming impacts are to be avoided.

On current trends -- absent a major reduction in the emission of heat-trapping greenhouse gases -- the global thermometer could rise by twice as much, according to scientists.

"Even changes that were once considered rather extreme scenarios, such as a 4.0 Celsius (7.2 Fahrenheit) in global mean temperature, ... could happen as soon as the early 2060s," the study notes.

Wheat also faces another possibly climate-related threat: aggressive new strains of wheat rust disease have decimated up to 40 percent of harvests in some regions of north Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia.

Wheat rust is a fungal disease that attacks the stems, grains and especially the leaves of grains including wheat, barley and rye.

Global warming and increased variability of rainfall have weakened the plants even as these emerging rust strains have adapted to extreme temperatures not seen before, scientists say.



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WHAT'S THE POINT?

ACROSS

1. Sacred picture
5. Blueprints
10. 007 film
14. Stallion's mate
15. Thesaurus man
16. Display drunkenness
17. General vicinity
18. Boxer's milieu
19. Patient wife of Sir Geraint
20. Soccer position
22. Top of the line
23. Chico, among the Marx Brothers
24. Quarter or semester
26. Actress Negri
29. Comfort
33. Brilliant fish
37. Allergic

DOWN

39. Reaction
40. Did a circus job
42. Shropshire
43. Clark-Cochran mediator
44. Like Paul Lynde's humor
45. Make an embankment
47. Country gardener's bane
48. Crop up
50. Soap-talk-sitcom star Kelly
52. Key signature's neighbor
54. For the time: Lat.
59. Pascal's field
62. Deadline

ACROSS

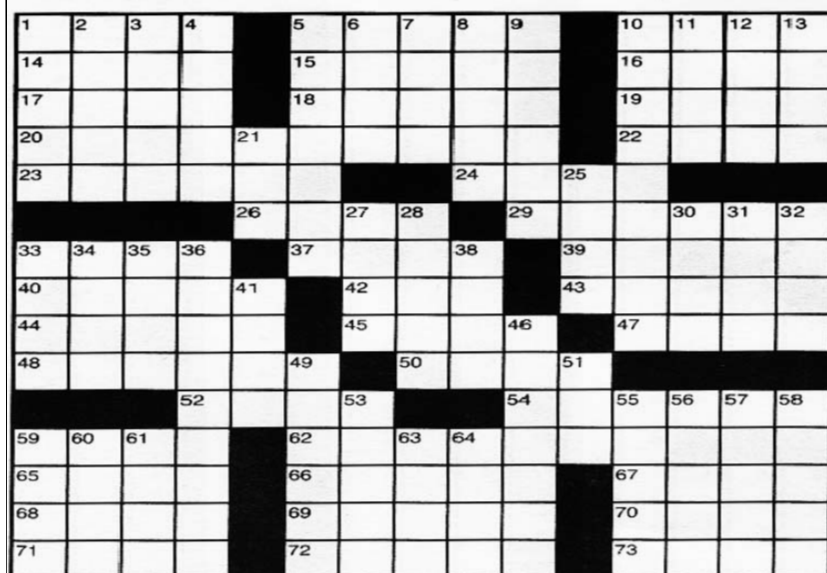
65. Winter ill
66. Squirrel nut
67. It was, to Caesar
68. "La Belle Dame — Merci" (Keats)
69. Fix the lawn
70. Drink habitually
71. Waste allowance
72. Works oneself into a snit
73. Silver type: abbr.

DOWN

1. Mirror reflection
2. Actress Kane
3. Nymph
4. Author Zora — Hurston
5. Roman magistrate

DOWN

6. Desolate
7. — on the vine
8. Article of faith
9. Fixed gazes
10. Sandman's address
11. Between Barr and Ashcroft
12. "No way, Nietzsche!"
13. Word on a quaint antique-shop sign
21. Spice measurement: abbr.
25. Degenerates
27. Beast's abode
28. Fall bloom
30. French girlfriend
31. Acquiesce
32. River in Hesse
33. Mountain in Thessaly
34. Feeler
35. Askew
36. Trousseau holder
38. Hägar's daughter
41. Ring
46. Adds
49. Does a roofing job again
51. Jazz's Farmer
53. Gem feature
55. "Waiting for Lefty" playwright
56. Kind of card
57. Day's march
58. Timer
59. Spar
60. Laboratory gel
61. Melody
63. Mother's Day token
64. Get bigger



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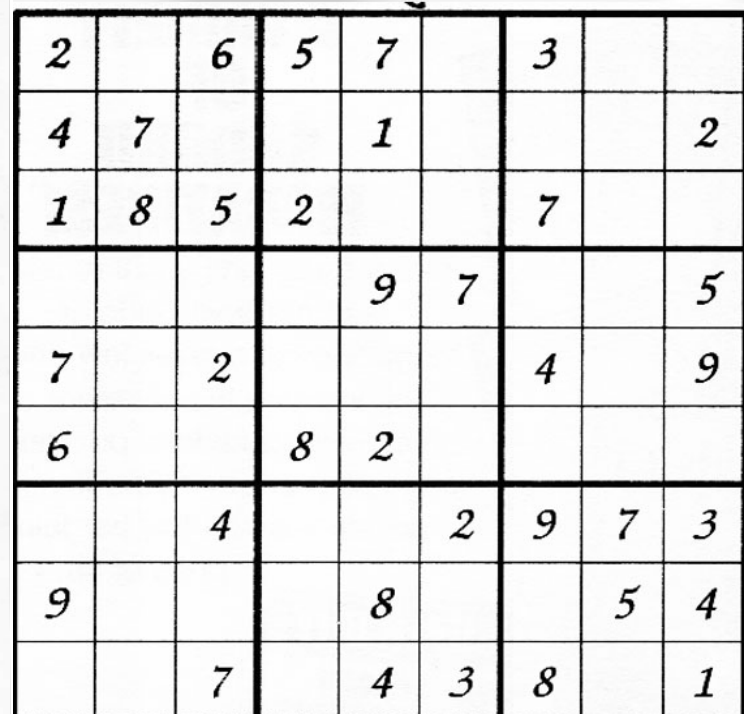
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1	8	5	2	9	7	6	4	3
7	6	3	4	2	1	9	8	5
9	4	2	1	8	3	7	5	6
6	3	7	9	5	4	2	1	8
2	5	4	6	3	8	1	9	7
8	1	9	3	6	2	5	7	4
3	2	6	7	4	1	8	9	5

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A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9




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Finance

Geithner hails strength of US business sector

WASHINGTON (AFP) The US business sector is surprisingly strong, Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner said Sunday, cautioning that it will still take a "long time" for the wider economy to fully recover from the financial crisis.

"I think if you look at the basic health of the American business sector, it's much stronger than I think anybody would have thought at the peak of our crisis and stronger than many of us hoped," Geithner said.

"But to be realistic, it's going to take a long time, still, for us to fully repair the damage, particularly unemployment," he told CNN television's GPS program, speaking from the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

"We still face tremendous challenges as a country. We're still repairing the damage caused by a devastating financial crisis that still has huge lasting impact on the basic fortunes of most Americans."

"Unemployment is still very high. Housing is still very, very weak. Construction is very weak. People still have too much debt," said Geithner.

Nevertheless, the treasury secretary added, the indicators used "to measure basic business health," are encouraging.

"Profits are higher than the pre-crisis peak. If you look at investment as a measure of confidence, private investment in equipment and software is up more than 30 percent since the trough in the first half of '09."

Iran parliament delays bill to cut EU oil exports

TEHRAN (AFP) - Iranian lawmakers on Sunday delayed taking action on a proposed bill to cut immediately oil exports to Europe in retaliation for an EU oil embargo, according to the parliament's energy commission.

"No bill has been designed nor has it come to the parliament," commission spokesman Emad Hosseini told Mehr news agency.

He said he hoped negotiations on preparing the bill would be finalised before Friday.

Lawmakers had initially been expected to enter the bill into parliament on Sunday, after calling for it to be drafted under "double emergency" procedures.

The proposed text aims to

immediately halt oil exports to Europe in a bid to destabilise the fragile economies of several EU states.

It was called in retaliation for an EU embargo on Iranian oil announced January 16 but whose implementation was meant to be phased in over the next five months to give struggling EU economies, such as Greece and Spain, time to find alternative oil suppliers.

But Hosseini said there was no bill yet, just "an idea by lawmakers" that still had to be studied by the energy commission before one could be drafted.

Iranian officials and lawmakers have expressed anger at the EU ban, which is designed to pressure Tehran to halt its nuclear activities. West-

ern countries allege Iran is seeking a nuclear weapon, despite Tehran's denials.

Iran is the second-biggest producer in OPEC, behind Saudi Arabia. It pumps some 3.5 million barrels a day, and exports 2.5 million of them.

Around 20 percent of the exports go to EU countries, mainly Italy, Spain and Greece. Most of the rest goes to Asia, principally China, India, Japan and South Korea.

Sarkozy announces rise in sales tax to 21.2 percent

PARIS (AFP) - French President Nicolas Sarkozy on Sunday announced a hike of 1.6 percentage points in value-added sales tax -- to 21.2 percent -- as part of new measures to boost France's ailing economy.

"This measure will not come into effect until October 1. We hope it will lead to increased sales (before that date) and boost growth," Sarkozy said in a television interview.

The "social tax" aims to shift the burden of paying for social security from employers to consumers and help create jobs while also making French firms more competitive against German rivals with much lower social charges.



Topless Ukrainian protesters demonstrate at the entrance to the congress center where the World Economic Forum is taking place in Davos, Switzerland. The protesters were drawing attention to the needs of the world's poor.

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SMOKE	MELODY	
DROPPING	ADIME	
CONSOL	DOLED	
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ARUBA Mrs. Carnaval 2012

continued from page 1



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top photo -first runner up Indira Oliviera Royal Carnival Group



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Jan. 31 - Pre-Final Calypso & Roadmarch Contest - Joe Laveist Ball park - 7:30 p.m. - scheduling may change
Feb. 1 - Pre-Final Calypso & Roadmarch Contest - 7:30 p.m. -scheduling may change
Feb. 3 - Children's & Youth Queen Election - Aruba Entertainment Center - 7 p.m.
Feb. 4 - Finals Calypso & Roadmarch Contest - Joe Laveist Ball park - 7:30 p.m.



left photoBest Speech Carolina Hernandez of ATC



right photo-Retiring Queen Angelique Tosma

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Ma-lone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline

pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for

high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange



parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoast-aruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



Haute Cuisine in Palm Beach? Very AMUSE-ing!



Patrick and Yvette welcome you

Our taste testers at THE MORNING NEWS have just enjoyed the most amazing, amusing dining experience, conveniently located in Palm Beach, in a cozy, attractive bistro at the Playa Linda Resort. Chef Patrick and his wife Yvette welcome you to Amuse, their French inspired bistro, where they share their passion for fine food and the classic art of cooking, enhances with a dash of Caribbean flare.

Patrick has opened his own place after years of establishing the reputation of some of Aruba's finest restaurants. He is adamant about creating his sauces and specialties strictly from scratch; nothing is out of the box or can and all ingredients are fresh - he even grows his own herbs and spices, and believe it or not, churns his own fresh made ice cream daily! Imagine a sumptuous desert of the creamiest

which is very nice if you would prefer to taste a wide sample of their delectable offerings. The restaurant also prides itself on an excellent wine cellar to provide the perfect pairing for the gourmet food. Menus change to some degree with the seasons, taking advantage of what is fresh and best for the time of year.

Amuse is named for the tradition of an "amuse-bouche" a chef's selection for something special to tantalize the taste buds, and patrons will find it a most appropriate moniker, as Patrick's exceptional sauces and artful presentation will provide a most memorable meal.

Red Wine Ice Cream served up with a rich, moist, brownie, or Pineapple Carpaccio with fresh

churned Cinnamon Ice Cream, and you have a finish for your dinner that will have you returning again the next day to try one of his other remarkable specialties.

Patrick is well aware that a memorable meal is a feast for all the senses, and his dishes are as pleasing to the eye as they are to the palate and your wallet. One would expect to pay very high prices for such effort, but their menu is quite reasonably priced. Amuse also provides the option of selecting a dish in main course or half plate, appetizer size,

Amuse is open daily for dinner from 5:30 to 10:30 PM.

However, if wishing to dine at peak hours, Yvette recommends calling 586-9949 for reservations well ahead; they are happy to take walk-ins anytime before 7:30 PM.

The charming logistics of the bistro allows patrons to enjoy the al fresco ambiance of a Parisian sidewalk café while still being protected from the weather; it is rightfully becoming quite a popular place to savor fine dining combined with Aruba's tropical ambiance.





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Golf: Rock sinks Woods for upset win



Robert Rock of England plays a shot on the third hole during the final round of the Abu Dhabi Championship at the Abu Dhabi Golf Club

ABU DHABI (AFP) - Robert Rock knew he was in a hard place on Sunday going head-to-head with Tiger Woods in the final grouping of the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship golf tournament.

Nervous, up early from bed, not knowing how he would cope with the added pressures of a big last day crowd on the first tee, Rock was, on his own admission, marching off into the unknown.

Some five hours later he had vanquished the golfing

legend that is Woods and snatched the greatest win of a career which started 10 years ago when he left his job as a club pro in the East Midlands to try his luck on the main circuit.

The 34-year-old English journeyman, whose maiden win on the European circuit came last year at the Italian Open said he had been left exhausted but overjoyed by the experience.

"It's difficult playing with Tiger," he said.

"You expect every shot (he

plays) to threaten to go in. I felt a lot of pressure and couldn't afford any lapses in concentration at all. So a lot of hard work but very happy now."

Rock and Woods shared the lead at 11 under going into the final round of the \$2.7 million dollars European Tour event which had attracted the best field in golf over the last three months.

And the pressure to stay the pace was immediate on Rock as a revived Woods sunk a huge 50-footer for birdie at the second and picked up another at the next hole.

But he did likewise and when Woods started to misfire over the next two holes, the world number 117 grabbed the lead and he simply refused to let go despite a harrowing last hole when he badly mis-cued his drive.

"I was just focusing on trying to hit fairways and then hit my iron shots as good as I have been and give myself chances at birdies," he said.

"Both Tiger and Peter (Hanson) struggled on occasions on a few holes and I managed to keep my ball in the right position and didn't put myself under too much stress until the last which was a relief."

The win will move Rock up to inside the top 60 in the world rankings and open the doors to a host of mouthwatering possibilities - most notably entry into the year's four major tournaments.

But Rock, who is also now second in the European Tour's Race to Dubai money list, said he simply wanted to savour the moment and not get too far ahead of himself.

"It doesn't get an awful lot harder that playing with Tiger Woods," he said.

"So I guess barring a major championship, I know I can handle that again at least."



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Tennis: Djokovic wins ... continued from page 16

Starting to dictate, the defending champion ran away with the third set, overpowering Nadal and breaking him to love to win it 6-2.

But the 25-year-old from Majorca, deposed from the top ranking by Djokovic after his losing last year's Wimbledon final, refused to be beaten and dragged himself back into the contest through sheer force of will.

The Spanish left-hander saved three break points in the eighth game of the fourth set, producing a fist-pumping celebration when he levelled at 4-4.

But in a surreal addition to the mounting tension, action was suspended for rain to organisers could close the stadium roof and dry the court.

When play restarted the set went to a tie-break, with Nadal clinching it at his first opportunity on a Djokovic forehand error to set up the decider.

And in the dramatic fifth set Nadal secured a crucial break in the sixth game, but with the Spaniard now suddenly looking the more likely winner, Djokovic battled back to secure a break of his own.

With players refusing to give an inch, the Serbian top seed broke again in the 11th game when Nadal netted with a backhand and then, in almost unbearable tension, saved a break point as he served out for the championship.

The Serb ripped off his shirt in celebration and marched to his players' box, flexing his muscles and then hugging his coach as he claimed his third Australian Open title, after 2008 and 2011.

The match was longer than the 1988 US Open final between Mats Wilander and Ivan Lendl, which lasted 4hr 54min, and also beat the Australian Open record of 5hr 14min set by Nadal and Fernando Verdasco in 2009.



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NBA: Bucks beat Lakers despite Bogut's absence

MILWAUKEE (AFP) - Drew Gooden scored 23 points and grabbed eight rebounds Saturday as a short-handed Milwaukee handed the Los Angeles Lakers yet another road defeat in the lockout-shortened NBA season.

The Bucks, missing injured center Andrew Bogut of Australia and suspended Stephen Jackson, held off Kobe Bryant and the Lakers 100-89.

Milwaukee nabbed their fourth victory in six games, while the Lakers fell to 1-7 in away games.

"I don't know if it's adversity, but a short season, not having any practice time is the biggest challenge," Bryant said.

"We have a lot of guys we need to get on the same page. We have so much youth, particularly coming off the bench. We've got to shorten that

learning curve."

Bryant finished with 27 points, nine assists and eight rebounds.

The NBA's top scorer worked to get his teammates involved in the first half, taking just four shots and scoring seven points with six assists, but the Lakers couldn't match the Bucks' offensive flow.

"We executed well offensively," said Bucks coach Scott Skiles. "We had some great sequences of ball movement again."

As the Lakers sought to

erase a 51-43 halftime deficit, Bryant became more aggressive in the third quarter.

In the fourth he surpassed Jerry West's Lakers record for most career free throws of 7,160, finishing the game with 7,163.

But Carlos Delfino, Shaun Livingston and, late in the game Luc Richard Mbah a Moute did a good job defensively on Bryant, who failed by three baskets to equal Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's Lakers record for career field goals.

"We did as good a job on

their key guys as we could," Skiles said. "I thought we were outstanding on Kobe and he almost had a triple-double."

The Bucks limited Pau Gasol to 12 points on 6-of-18 shooting and Andrew Bynum to 15 points.

"I thought we held our own," Skiles added.

First-year Lakers coach Mike Brown said he hoped his players "don't need the home crowd to get us juiced, to play the right way".

Bryant said the cure to the Lakers' ills is simple.

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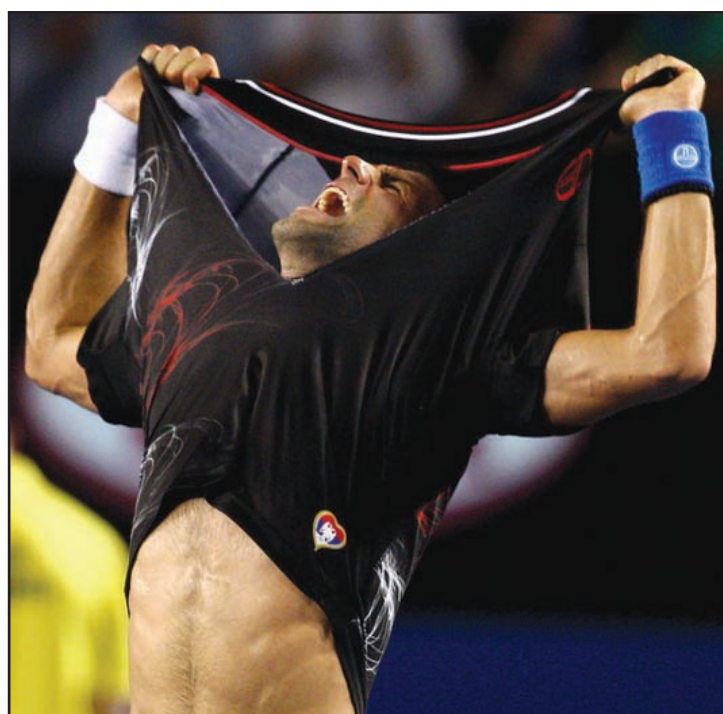
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Tennis: Djokovic wins epic Australian Open final



Novak Djokovic of Serbia celebrates after victory in his men's singles final match against Rafael Nadal of Spain

MELBOURNE (AFP) - Novak Djokovic tore off his shirt, flexed his sinewy muscles and roared in celebration, but for once the machismo was not misplaced.

The defending champion

Novak Djokovic battled past Rafael Nadal in an epic, five-set Australian Open final which clocked in at 5hr 53min -- the longest title match in grand slam history -- early today.

Djokovic fought back

from losing the first set to take a 2-1 lead, but he was then taken to a gripping fifth set by resurgent Nadal before winning 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, 6-7 (5/7), 7-5 for his third consecutive major title.

The nail-biting match of wildly swinging fortunes, played in front of an enthralled crowd, started before 8:00 pm on Sunday and did not wind up until 1:40 am on today, and was also the longest in the tournament's history.

"Good morning everybody," Nadal told the crowd afterwards. "I will never forget this match. Even though I lost, it was something really special for me. Thank you very much, I will come back here a lot and I will keep fighting."

Djokovic, who picks up a cheque for Aus\$2.3 million (US\$2.4 million), has now beaten the Spaniard in three consecutive grand slam finals and seven consecutive title matches overall.

"Rafa, you're one of the best players ever. You're one

of the most respected guys on the tour," he said.

"We made history tonight, and unfortunately there couldn't be two winners. But I wish you all the best for this season and I hope that we will have many more matches like this and many more finals."

Djokovic's win, his fifth grand slam title, means he joins rarified company. Only Rod Laver, Pete Sampras, Roger Federer (twice) and Nadal have previously won three consecutive grand slams in the open era.

The Serb, who had a gruelling five-set semi-final win over Andy Murray, came into the final with a day less rest than Nadal, and having complained about allergy-related breathing problems in Melbourne.

He struggled to get into the match early on against his never-say-die opponent, slamming racquet to the ground when he was broken and falling a set behind but, re-energised, he found his rhythm in the second set to level.

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